



Austro-Hungarian
Orders, Medals and Decorations
Volume II: Pre-1848 Awards
Part B, 1780-1790



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Table of Contents

Volume II, Pre-1848 Awards, Part I (1408-1621)

Introduction to Volume II	5
Order of the Dragon	6
Introduction to the Pre-1740 Habsburg awards and Archduke Ferdinand to Tyrol Golden Grace	
Medal, 1556.....	9
Archduke Ferdinand of Tyrol Golden Grace Medal 1562.....	10
Emperor Maximilian II Golden Grace Medal, 156.....	11
Honor Medallion for the Inner Austrian Assembly.....	12
Emperor Rudolph II Golden Grace Medal (round), 1585.....	13
Emperor Rudolph II Golden Grace Medal (oval), 1585.....	14
Corinthian Honor Medal, 1597.....	15
Margraves Award Medal, 1606	16
Archduke Charles von Habsburg Medal, 1621.....	17
Archduke Maximilian von Habsburg Medal, 1621.....	18
Archduke Charles von Habsburg Medal, 1621.....	19

Volume II, Pre-1848 Awards, Part II (1635-1740)

Emperor Ferdinand II Golden Honor Medal, 1635.....	5
Emperor Ferdinand III Golden Honor Medal, 1650.....	7
Emperor Ferdinand III Copper Honor Medal, 1650.....	8
Emperor Leopold I Golden Honor Medal (round), 1700.....	9
Emperor Leopold I Golden Honor Medal (Oval), 1700.....	10
Emperor Joseph I Golden Honor Medal (round), 1705.....	11
Emperor Joseph I Golden Honor Medal (Oval), 1706.....	12
Emperor Karl VI Honor Medal, 1711-14.....	13

Volume II, Pre-1848 Awards, Part III, (1740-1766)

1740 –1766 and 1740-1745 Introduction	5
Maria Theresia Honor Medal (oval), 1740-1754.....	6
Maria Theresia Bohemian Honor Medal, 1743.....	8
Franz I Honor Medal in gold, 1745-1765	9
Maria Theresia Honor Medal (round), 1754-1765.....	11
1745-1765 introduction	13





Table of Contents

Volume II, Pre-1848 Awards, Part III, (1740-1766) (Continued)

Franz I Honor Medal, 1745-1765	14
Peace of Aachen Commemoration Medal, 1748	15
Commemoration Medal for the Construction of the Military Invalids Hospital in Vienna, 1750	16
Hungarian Homage Medal, 1751	18
Joseph II Honor Medal, 1764-1766	19
Maria Theresia Honor Medal, 1765-1780	21
1766-1780 Introduction	1

Volume II, Pre-1848 Awards, Part IV, (1766-1780)

1766-1780 introduction	5
Joseph II Honor Medal, 1766-1780	6
Reward Medal for Combatant Troops Marksman, 1769.....	8

Volume II, Pre-1848 Awards, Part V, (1780-1790)

1780-1790 Introduction	5
Joseph II Honor Medal 1780-1790	6
Decoration for Royal and Imperial Military Doctors and Regimental Surgeons 1785-1790	12
Medal for the Founding of the Emperor Joseph Medical Academy 1785-1790	15
Joseph II Honor Medal 1780-1790	16

Volume II, Pre-1848 Awards, Part VI, (1790-1792)

1790-1792 Introduction	5
Limburg Volunteers Medal 1790,1792,1793	6
Emperor Leopold II Silver Military Merit Medal for the Netherlands 1790-1793	8
Leopold II Imperial Honor Medal.....	9
Emperor Leopold II Austrian Honor Medal.....	11
Leopold II Imperial Coronation Medal 1790	13
Golden Flag Medal for the Latour Dragoon Medal 1791	15

Volume II, Pre-1848 Awards, Part VII, (1792-1796)

1792-1804 Introduction	5
Commemoration Medal for Veterans of the Netherlands Provence, 1792-1794.....	6
Emperor Franz II Honor and Merit Medal 1792.....	8





Table of Contents

Honor Medal 1792-1805	14
Dutch Volunteers Commemoration Medal, 1793	16
Neerwinden Medal, 1793	17
Dutch Volunteers Commemoration Medal, 1794	18
Olmütz Military Medal 1796	19
Tyrolean Commemoration and Merit Medal, 1796	21
Tyrolean Commemoration and Merit Medal 1797	23
Military Merit Medal for the Lower Austrian Mobilization 1797	25
Honor Medal for British Cavalry, 1798	28
West Galicia Commemoration medal, 1896	31
Commemoration and Merit Medal for Dalmatians, 1801	33
Ecclesiastic Merit Cross, 1801-1859, 1880	35
Volume II, Pre-1848 Awards, Part VIII, (1804-1835)	
1804-1835 Introduction	5
Commemoration Medal for the Officers of the Prague Encampment, 1804	6
Honor Medal, 1805-1809	11
Civil Honor Medal, 1807-1835	14
Veterans Service Insignia , 1807-1849	17
Bravery Medal, 1809-1839	19
Tyrol and Vorarlberg Defenders Medal, 1809	21
Army Cross (Cannon Cross), 1814-1815	22
Civil Honor Cross, 1813-1814	28
Bohemian Nobles Cross, 1814	38
Merit Medal for military Physicians and Surgeons	42
Volume II, Pre-1848 Awards, Part IX, (1835-1848)	
1835-1848 Introduction	5
Civil Merit Medal, 1835-1848	6
Tyrolean Homage Medal, 1838	8
Bravery Medal, 1839-1849	10
Commemoration Medal for the First Imperial Free Shoot in Bregenz 1847	14





Introduction



This section will cover the awards issued from 1780 to 1790. During this time Austria was ruled by Joseph II who was the Holy Roman Emperor, Archduke of Austria and King of Hungary. This document will only concern itself with awards that were granted to reward military accomplishments or services rendered in support of the empire that were of a military nature.







Joseph II Honor Medal

(Joseph II Gnadenkmedaille, Virtute Et Exemplo)



Type I Medal

Image attributed to Reference Catalogue Orders, medals and decorations of the World, A-D, Borna Barac

Interesting Facts:

- This was the third version of this medal to be issued
- The word Gnaden (Grace) as used in the name of this medal had a different meaning when it was issued than it does today. Thus “grace” should be interpreted as “honor” therefore the title in today’s terminology would be the Imperious Joseph II Honor Medal
- From 1764 when this decoration was established until 1790 when it was discontinued the 14 variations of the award were issued. The period during which this decoration was issued covered the period from 1764-1765 when Joseph II was the Roman King, 1765-1780 when Joseph II served as Emperor and Co-Regent and 1780-1790 when he was Emperor and ruled Austria
- This medal was issued as a wearable medal with a suspension ring and as a table medal.
- Bronze medals are copies that were made for the collectors trade

Hallmarks: None Known

Design: A round medal with a flat attached suspension eye at the top.

Obverse: A youthful bust of Joseph II, facing to the right. He is portrayed with long flowing hair in which is a laurel wreath near the temples. He is dressed in armor and wears the chain of the Order of the Golden Fleece. Paralleling the rim around the upper two-thirds of the medal is the inscription: **IOSEPHVS II.**

D.G . ROM. REX. S.A.GERM.REX.HVNG.BOH.& C.PRIN.HERED.A.A.&C. near the lower edge of the medal is the signature of the medalist: A.WIDEMAN

Reverse: The eye of God (a triangle with eye surrounded by a wreath of rays) overlooking a globe surrounded by clouds. Superimposed on the globe are a sword and a spade (some experts say a rudder) which are crossed. Both are interwoven with boughs of oak and laurel. Along the top margin of the medal, above the eye of God is the inscription: **VIRTUTE ET EXEMPLO** (by virtue and example).

Weight:

Type I

Gold Honor Medal = 84 grams or 24 Ducats

Small Gold Honor Medal = Unknown

Silver Honor Medal = 54 grams

Small Silver Honor Medal = 35 grams



Reverse Type II and V





Joseph II Honor Medal

(Joseph II Gnadenkmedaille, Virtute Et Exemplo)



Type III Medal

Weight (continued):

- **Type II**
 - Gold Honor Medal = Unknown
 - Small Gold Honor Medal = Unknown
 - Silver Honor Medal = Unknown
 - Small Silver Honor Medal = 35 grams
- **Type III**
 - Gold Honor Medal = 84 grams or 24 Ducats
 - Silver Honor Medal = 54 grams
 - Small silver Honor Medal = 35 grams
- **Type IV**
 - Gold Honor Medal = 84 grams or 24 Ducats
 - Small Gold Honor Medal = Unknown
 - Silver Honor Medal = 54 grams
 - Small Silver Honor Medal = 35 grams

Type V

- Gold Honor Medal = 84-140 grams or 24-40 Ducats
- Small Gold Honor Medal = Unknown
- Silver Honor Medal first class = 54 grams
- Silver Honor Medal second class = 35-40 grams
- Silver Honor Medal Third class = 17 grams

Size:

- **Type I**
 - Gold Honor Medal = 45-50 mm in diameter
 - Small Gold Honor Medal = 46 mm in diameter
 - Silver Honor Medal = 45-50 mm in diameter
 - Small Silver Honor Medal = 46 mm in diameter





Joseph II Honor Medal

(Joseph II Gnadenkmedaille, Virtute Et Exemplo)



Type I Medal

Size (Continued):

Image attributed to Reference Catalogue Orders, medals and decorations of the World, A-D, Borna Barac

- **Type II**
 - Gold Honor Medal = 40.5-46 mm in diameter
 - Small Gold Honor Medal = 33 mm in diameter
 - Silver Honor Medal = 40.5-46 mm in diameter
 - Small Silver Honor Medal = 33 mm in diameter
- **Type III**
 - Gold Honor Medal = 46-50 mm in diameter
 - Large Silver Honor Medal = 46-50 mm in diameter
 - Silver Honor Medal = 33 mm
- **Type IV**
 - Gold Honor Medal = 50 mm in diameter
 - Small Gold Honor Medal = 46 mm in diameter
 - Silver Honor Medal = 50 mm in diameter
 - Small Silver Honor Medal = 33 mm in diameter
- **Type V**
 - Gold Honor Medal = 50 –60 mm in diameter
 - Small Gold Honor Medal = 39 mm in diameter
 - Silver Honor Medal first class = 50 mm in diameter
 - Silver Honor Medal second class = 46 mm in diameter
 - Silver Honor Medal Third class = 39 mm in diameter

Type of Material: Gold and silver

Variations:

- **Type I medal** as described above
- **Type II medal** as described above except the obverse inscription reads: **IOSEPH II D.G.R.IMP.G.ET H.REX.COR.ET HERES RH.B.A.A.D.B.ET L.M.D.H &C.&C**





Joseph II Honor Medal
(Joseph II Gnadenkmedaille, Virtute Et Exemplo)



Type III Medal

Variations:

- **Type III medal** as described above except the obverse image is of the emperor wearing a toga clasped at the at the shoulder with a broach. The inscription reads: **IOS.II.D.G.R.IMP.G.ET.H.REX COR.ET HERES R.H.B.A.A.D.B.ET L.M.D.H & C.** near the lower edge of the medal is the signature of the medalist: F.K.Wurth F. On the reverse of this type medal near the bottom rim on either side of the clouds is found the letters **E** and **IV**.
- **Type IV medal:** The same as described above except the obverse is inscribed **IOS II. D. G. R. I MP. S.A.GER.HVN.BOH.REX.A.A.BVR.LOT.D** Below the bust on some of these medals appears the makers mark C, VINAZE.F. on the silver medals and C.Wirt.F. on the gold medals
- **Type V medal:** A youthful bust of Joseph II, facing to the right. He is portrayed with long flowing hair in which is a laurel wreath near the temples. He is portrayed with bare shoulders. Paralleling the rim around the upper half of the medal is the inscription: **IOSEPHVS II . AVGVSTVS**. Near the lower edge of the medal is the signature of the medalist: I. N. Wirt F. The reverse of this type medal is the same as the Type III medal.



Type V Medal





Joseph II Honor Medal
(Joseph II Gnadenkmedaille, Virtute Et Exemplo)



Type V Large Silver Medal

Designer:

- **Type I medals** = Anton Wideman
- **Type II Medals** = Anton Wideman
- **Type III Medals**

Gold Medals = Franz Xaver Wurth

Silver medals = Christian Vinazer

- **Type IV Medals**

Gold Medals = Johann Nepomuk Wirt

Silver medals = Christian Vinazer

- **Type V Medals** = Johann Nepomuk Wirt

Manufacturer: The Imperial Mint in Vienna (Hauptmunzamt Wien)

Number Issued: Unknown

Case: Unknown

Ribbon:

- The gold medals were often issued on a gold chain
 - a 39 – 40 mm wide strait scarlet ribbon

Attachments: None

Miniature: None known





Merit Medal for Royal and Imperial Military Doctors and Regimental Surgeons
(Verdienstmedaille für K.K. Militärärzte und Regimentschirurgen)



Date Issued: 1785-1790

Reason Issued: As a reward for meritorious service by military physicians and regimental surgeons who had distinguished themselves by their special proficiency and devotion in their respective professions. The award was created on the occasion of the founding of the Emperor Joseph Medical Academy in Vienna in 1785.

Classes or Types: Three

- Large Silver Physicians and Surgeons Medal
- Silver Physicians and Surgeons Medal
- Small Silver Physicians and Surgeons Medal

Interesting Facts: The eyes on the medals vary with the large medal having a large flat eye; the Silver Medal having a fleur-de-lis shaped eye and the small medal a serrated wedge shaped eye.

Hallmarks: None Known

Design: A round medal with a raised rim and an attached suspension eye at the top.

Obverse: For the large silver and silver medal a youthful bare shouldered bust of Joseph II, facing to the viewers right. He is depicted with long flowing hair in which is a laurel wreath. Paralleling the rim around the upper half of the medal is the inscription: **IOSEPHVS II. AVGVSTVS** (Joseph II Emperor). Near the lower edge of the medal is the signature of the medalist: I. N. Wurt F. (The F stands for Fabrikat: fabricated). For the small silver medal as described above except the vis- of the emperor's image is slightly different and near the lower edge is 'DONNER' (Ignaz Donner)



age





Merit Medal for Royal and Imperial Military Doctors and Regimental Surgeons
(Verdienstmedaille für K.K. Militärärzte und Regimentschirurgen)



Small Silver Decoration for Royal and Imperial Military Doctors and Regimental Surgeons

Reverse:

- Large Silver and Silver Medal: The reverse of the medal is plain except for an inscription which reads in five lines: **BENE MERENTIBVS/DE/ARTE MEDICO CHIRVR-/GICA/PRAEMIVM**, (Awarded for Outstanding Service in the Medical and Surgical Arts)
- Small Silver medal: The reverse of the medal is plain except for an inscription which reads in four lines: **ACADEMIA /MEDICO/ CHIRVRGICA /MILITARIS** (Medial Surgical Military Academy).



Weight:

- Large Silver Medal = 113 grams
- Silver Medal = 45 grams
- Small Silver Medal = 14 grams





Merit Medal for Royal and Imperial Military Doctors and Regimental Surgeons
(Verdienstmedaille für K.K. Militärärzte und Regimentschirurgen)



Size:

- Large Silver Medal = 50-51 mm in diameter and 5 mm thick
- Silver Medal = 43 mm in diameter
- Small Silver Medal = 35 mm in diameter

Type of Material: Silver

Variations:

- Type I Large Silver medal as described above
- Type II Large Silver medal as described above but the reverse inscription is in six lines as follows: **BENE MERENTIBVS/DE ARTE.MED.CHIRVRG/PROEMIVM INSTITVIT./FR.ANTON.BRENDEL./CHIRVRG.MILIT./MDCCLXXXV.**

Designer:

- Large silver and Silver Medal: Johann Nepomuk Wirth
- Small silver Medal: Ignaz Donner

Manufacturer: Unknown

Number Issued: Unknown

Case: Unknown

Ribbon: A 43 mm wide lemon yellow ribbon with 10 mm black edge stripes

Attachments: None

Miniature: None known





Medal for the Founding of the Emperor Joseph Medical Academy
(Medaille für die Gründung der Kaiser Joseph Medizinischen Akademie)



Date Issued: 1785

Reason Issued: To commemorate the founding of the Emperor Joseph Medical Academy in Vienna in 1785.

Classes or Types: Two

- Gold Medal
- Silver Medal

Interesting Facts: None Known

Hallmarks: None Known

Design: A round medal with a raised rim and an attached stylized suspension eye at the top.

Obverse: A youthful bare shouldered bust of Joseph II, facing to the viewers right. He is depicted with long flowing hair in which is a laurel wreath near the temples. Paralleling the rim around the upper half of the medal is the inscription: **IOSEPHVS II. AVGVSTVS**. Near the lower edge of the medal is the signature of the medalist: Ignaz Donner.

Reverse: A depiction of the academy building with the following inscription paralleling the rim around the upper half of the medal: **CVRANDIS MILITVM MORBIS ET VVINERIBVS**. Beneath the image of the academy building is the following inscription in three lines: **ACADEMIA MEDICO CHIRVRGICA/ INSTITVTIA VIENNAE/ MDCCLXXXV**.

Weight: Unknown

Size: 60 mm in diameter

Type of Material: Gold and silver

Variations: None Known

Designer: Ignaz Donner

Manufacturer: Ignaz Donner

Number Issued: Unknown

Case: Unknown

Ribbon: None, the medal was worn on a gold or silver chain

Attachments: None

Miniature: None known





Honor Medal (Ehren Medaille)



Date Issued: July 19, 1789 - 1791

Reason Issued: As a reward for Acts of bravery or gallantry in time of war by non-commissioned officers and soldiers who were not otherwise eligible for the Order of Maria Theresa

Classes or Types: Two

- Gold Bravery Medal
- Silver Bravery Medal

Interesting Facts:

- The creation of this award was suggested by Field Marshal, Count Laudon.
- This is the oldest Austrian valor insignia specifically for non-commissioned officers and enlisted men.
- This decoration was often referred to in the Austrian Army as the soldiers Maria Theresa Order.
- The first issue of these decorations was for those who served in the war with Turkey from 1788 - 1791.
- Soldiers could receive both the silver and gold medals if they were awarded consecutively
- This decoration was sometimes called the Ehren Medal (Honor Medal) and sometimes the Denkmunze fur Tapferkeit (Commemorative for Bravery)
- From 1789 to 1918 there were 30 different versions of the bravery medal. These are versions 1 and 2
- This decoration in all of its variations was, up to the issuance of the Karl Troop Cross in 1916 the most issued armed forces decoration.

Hallmarks: None Known

Design: A round medal with an attached round flat suspension eye at the top through which the suspension ribbon passed.

Obverse: A youthful bust of Joseph II, facing to the right. He is portrayed with long flowing hair in which is a laurel wreath near the temples. Paralleling the rim around the upper half of the medal is the inscription: **IOSEPH.II.** Near the lower edge of the medal is the signature of the medalist: I. N. WIRT F. (The F stands for fabrikat, (fabricated))

Reverse: The reverse of the medal has four crossed flags and two crossed standards at the bottom. The two front flags can be seen through the leaves of the laurel wreath and appear to have the Austrian Coat of Arms (the barred shield), with an archdukes hat above it, the latter is also recognizable on the standard over which is superimposed a laurel wreath which is tied at the bottom with a bow. Within the wreath and above the flags are the words **DER TAPFERKEIT** (for bravery)





Honor Medal (Ehren Medaille)



Weight:

- Gold Bravery Medal = 8 Ducats (28 grams)
- Silver Bravery Medal = 17 grams

Size:

- Gold Bravery Medal = 40 mm
- Silver Bravery Medal = 40 mm

Type of Material: Gold and Silver

Variations:

- Type I, As described above
- Type II, As described above except that the obverse does not have the makers name at the bottom

Designer: Johann Nepomuk Wirt (Wirth, Wurth)

Manufacturer: Vienna Hauptmunzamt (Vienna Mint)

Number Issued: For bravery in the war with Turkey in 1791, 74 gold medals and 611 silver medals were awarded

Case: Unknown

Ribbon: A 40 mm wide dark rose-red and white laddered ribbon with a 21 mm horizontal striped center portion and 4.5 mm red side stripes and 5 mm wide white edge stripes



Attachments: None

Miniature: None known

